

Judge Ori Feistmann Silver

Through persistence, hard work, and determination Judge Ori Silver's career path was fulfilled when Governor DeSantis appointed her to the County Court Bench for the 15th Judicial Circuit Court. It is in this position where she presides over county court criminal cases. Judge Silver stepped onto the bench in December 2021 where she filled the vacancy created by Judge Bradley Harper's elevation to the Circuit Court.

Judge Silver was born in New York but considers herself a native Floridian having moved to Palm Beach County with her family at age 4. "She attended Palm Beach County schools from elementary school through high school, where she attended Jewish Community Day School, now known as Meyer Preparatory School, and graduated from Palm Beach Lakes High School. From there, Judge Silver became a "double gator" spending seven years in Gainesville at the University of Florida ("UF") where she attended both undergraduate and law school. Judge Silver spent two years rowing for the UF crew team. Being fond of Gainesville, it was the logical choice for Judge Silver to stay and attend law school. Her decision to remain in Gainesville was swayed by the fact that her brother was also attending undergraduate and medical school at UF during the same time.

From an early age, Judge Silver knew that she wanted to be a trial lawyer. She followed that dream to reality and became a Broward County Prosecutor immediately upon graduation from law school and remained as an Assistant State Attorney for 20 years. During her tenure as a Broward County prosecutor, Judge Silver was able to conduct over 100 jury trials. After five years of handling criminal cases ranging from drug trafficking to domestic violence, she found her passion prosecuting elder abuse cases. It was in this capacity that Judge initiated the Broward County Elder Abuse Task Force where she prosecuted cases for the next 15 years until she was appointed to the bench. The Task Force was established to coordinate efforts between different agencies that provide services to elders and nursing homes with law enforcement. The Task Force also facilitated spot checks of nursing homes and provided specialized training to law enforcement while prosecuting offenders.

Finding a lawyer in Judge Silver's family is not difficult because her mother, sister, father-in-law, and two brother-in-laws are also attorneys. Being a public servant and career prosecutor also runs in Judge Silver's family as both her mother and sister are lifelong prosecutors. Judge Silver and her sister were even able to try cases together. Judge Silver's mother has been a prosecutor with the Palm Beach County State Attorney's office for decades.

In addition to her busy legal career, Judge Silver has an active family life with a husband and three children. She also has three siblings. In her limited spare time Judge Silver, who loves Florida history, takes pleasure in reading to her sons from books such as Harvey Oyer's series – "The Adventures of Charlie Pierce." Prior to college Judge Silver played junior competitive tennis. It is therefore no coincidence that two of her three sons followed in her footsteps and also play competitive tennis (while her third son prefers soccer).

Since ascending to the bench, Judge Silver has presided over numerous jury trials. As a judge, she loves seeing the great quality of lawyers in the State Attorneys' and Public Defenders' offices as well as local practitioners. While she admires the courtroom acumen of trial lawyers who come before her, Judge Silver takes pleasure in helping new lawyers on both sides with tips to help them prepare their cases and hone their skills. For the public that comes before Judge Silver, she places a high priority on making

everyone feel that they are treated fairly – even the criminal defendants are encouraged by Judge Silver to understand and appreciate that their voices are heard. On behalf of the Palm Beach County Bar Association, we welcome Judge Silver and look forward to her contribution to the Palm Beach County legal community.

Written by Laura Starr and updated by Roger Feicht.